

**BOLSOVER**

(DERBYSHIRE)



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

ON THE

**HEALTH & SANITARY CONDITIONS**

of the

**URBAN DISTRICT OF BOLSOVER**

for the Year

**1944**



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# Bolsover Urban District Council.

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## PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, 1944.

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### **Medical Officer of Health.**

DR. A. H. WEAR, M.D., D.P.H., B.Hy.,

Dale Close, 100, Chesterfield Road South, Mansfield.

(Tel. No. 811 Mansfield).

### **Deputy Medical Officer** (Part-time).

DR. JOHN BENJAMIN MCKAY, M.B., Ch.B.

### **Sanitary Inspector** (Full-time).

(Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods, and Inspector  
under Shops Acts and Petroleum Acts).

JAMES HOLDEN SMELLIE, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,

From 15th February, 1943.

Tel. No. 5 Bolsover.

(Council Offices).

## Preface.

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BOLSOVER  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MRS. THOMAS AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting for your consideration my Annual Report on the general Sanitary Conditions of the District for the year 1944.

Unfortunately, owing to war conditions, many matters have had to be left in abeyance, the most urgent being the provision of more houses and the re-conditioning of existing ones.

The health of the district has been good apart from the incidence of pulmonary tuberculosis, and the vital statistics are most satisfactory.

Every effort has been made to secure the immunisation of Infants for diphtheria, and to maintain the high level of immunisation in School Children.

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking the Members and Officials of the Council for their continued interest and support.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. H. WEAR,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

" Dale Close,"

100, Chesterfield Road South,  
Mansfield.

## Statistics of the Area.

Area (acres) .....	4,526
Population (Census, 1931) .....	11,811
Population mid-year (Registrar-General) 1944 .....	9,996
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1944) .....	2,705
Rateable Value, 1944 .....	£48,028
Sum represented by a Penny Rate, 1944 .....	£181

## Social Conditions.

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are coal mining and agriculture. There is also in the district a Fruit Preserving Works and a Bye-Product Works where coalite is produced.

### Chief Causes of Invalidity in the District.

Scabies still continue to be the most common cause of invalidity in this area. The number of cases treated at the Bolsover Baths was 266, compared with 268 in 1943. In all 815 treatments have been given during the past twelve months.

22 children received 48 treatments for Verminous Heads, compared with 36 in the autumn of 1943. There has been a considerable decline in these cases.

### Nutrition.

Nutrition amongst school children is definitely higher than in pre-war days, and is due largely to the provision of extra milk and mid-day meals. Another important factor is that there is practically no unemployment, and, generally speaking, the wage level has increased sufficiently to counter balance the increased cost of living, and consequently the great majority of families have more food purchasing power. An average of 742 children per day are supplied with meals at school. Approximately 41% of the children in this area now take school meals.

### Milk in Schools.

Number taking  $\frac{1}{3}$  pint per day—1101, or 60%.

Number taking  $\frac{2}{3}$  pint per day—385, or 21%.

## National Welfare Food Scheme.

All holders of green ration books (RB2) i.e., children up to 5 years of age and expectant mothers, are automatically entitled to a priority of 7 pints of milk per week, and in the case of children up to 5 years of age, to fruit juice and cod liver oil. Expectant mothers are also entitled to the basic quantity of milk current during the period the green ration book is in operation.

## Quantities of Fruit Juice and Cod Liver Oil supplied during the year 1944.

Fruit Juice, 18,016 bottles.

Cod Liver Oil, 2,036 bottles.

A. & B. Tablets, 323 cartons.

National Milk Cocoa for adolescents and young people under 21 has been taken up to a fair extent. This drink is now available in Youth Service Clubs.

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## Vital Statistics.

### BIRTHS.

#### LIVE BIRTHS.

	Total	Males	Females	
Legitimate .....	248	124	124	{ Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 25.6.
Illegitimate.....	8	4	4	
STILL BIRTHS .....	5	4	1	{ Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 19.1.

	Total	Males	Females	
DEATHS .....	84	51	33	{ Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resi- dent population, 8.4.

Deaths from puerperal causes (Heading 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General Short List) :—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis .....	—	—
No. 30 Other puerperal causes .....	—	—
	—	—
Total .....	—	—
	—	—

#### DEATH-RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE :—

All infants per 1,000 live births .....	7.8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .....	8
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births .....	—

The Infantile death-rate of 7.8 is incredibly low, and is the smallest I have ever had to report in all my experience of Public Health. It is interesting to note that in the year 1899 the infantile mortality in Bolsover was 222.2 per 1,000 live births. This great decline is due to several causes, the chief of which are :—

- (a) Higher wages for workers.
- (b) More knowledge of nutrition among the population with consequent less rickets.
- (c) Lesser families due to a fall in the birth-rate. This brings about an improvement in social conditions as the mother is able to look after the children and parents have more money to spend on them.
- (d) As there are fewer children there is less danger of infection spreading in a family.
- (e) Wholesale abolition of pails and privy middens, which was carried out after the last war. This was largely the reason why deaths from diarrhoea in infants diminished to such a great extent.
- (f) Improved care of the milk supply.
- (g) The death-rate of infectious diseases in infants has dropped very considerably.

(There were no deaths from any infectious disease in infants in 1944 in Bolsover).

- (h) More care of mothers and babies at confinements or in Maternity Hospitals by qualified midwives. In the old days there were many unqualified midwives, some of whom had very primitive ideas of asepsis.

#### DEATHS FROM :—

Measles (all ages) .....	—
Whooping Cough (all ages) .....	—
Diarrhoea (under two years of age) .....	—
Cancer (all ages) .....	16
Influenza .....	—
Tuberculosis .....	3
Heart Disease .....	21
Pneumonia .....	1

# **Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1944.**

	Birth-rate per 1,000 Total Population		ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION							RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS .		
	Live Births	Still Births	All causes	Enteric Fever	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping-cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Diarrhoea and Enteritis, under 2 years	Total Deaths under 1 year
England and Wales .. ..	17.6	0.50	11.6	0.00	—	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.02	0.12	4.8	46
125 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ..	20.3	0.64	13.7	0.00	—	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.10	7.3	52
148 Smaller Towns (1931 adjusted) Populations 20,000—50,000 ..	20.9	0.61	12.4	0.00	—	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.11	4.4	44
London .. ..	15.0	0.42	15.7	0.00	—	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.01	0.08	10.1	61
BOLSOVER U.D. .. ..	25.6	0.5	8.4	0.00	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	7.8

## General Provisions of Health Services in the Area.

### Laboratory Facilities.

The number of types of specimens dealt with by the County Laboratories were as follows :—

Enterica—	Positive	Negative	Total
Typhoid, Para-Typhoid			
A & B .....	—	2	2
Gaertner, Dysentery, etc.	—	2	2
Diphtheria .....	3	12	15
Phthisis .....	—	6	6
Water .....	20	6	26
Milk :			
T.B. Inoculation sent by Ministry of Agriculture	—	—	—
Routine Samples .....	1	11	12
Methylene Blue Test (Routine)	19	51	70
Bacterial Content (Routine)	—	—	—
Bacillus Coli. (Routine) .....	7	63	70
Miscellaneous .....	—	4	4
	50	157	207

### Diphtheria Contacts.

In November, the Council passed the following resolution at their monthly meeting.

“ That the Medical Officer of Health be given discretionary powers to have diphtheria swabs examined at Mansfield Laboratory in cases where he considers this course advisable. The cost per swab, viz. 3/—, to be paid by the Council.”

## Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

### Water.

This is supplied by the Chesterfield and Bolsover Water Board. It is analysed every month and is consistently satisfactory in quality. The hardness at the present time is 12% and .15 parts per million of chlorine is added.

The following is a bacteriological analysis taken after chlorination.

Temperature on arrival	15°C.
No. of colonies per millilitre developing on agar :—	
In 3 days at 22°C.	0
In 48 hours at 37°C.	0
Probable number of bacteria. Coli Aerogenes Group	
in 100 millilitres	0

Treatment is installed at the softening plant near the pumping station. Analysis of the water before chlorination was done regularly when the Board employed their own chemist, but he has been seconded to war duties and upon his return analysing before chlorination will be resumed.

With the exception of 17 all the 2,735 houses in the district have a piped supply. Most of these 17 houses remaining are farms.

A bill was passed in Parliament during 1944 authorising the Chesterfield and Bolsover Water Board to construct further works to supplement their existing supplies. This was urgently necessary, as during dry periods the supply is inadequate and water has to be taken from adjoining Authorities. Nearly every summer this difficulty occurs, and during 1943 a most critical situation arose.

### Closet Accommodation.

There are 2,705 houses in the district, and apart from the numbers outlined below all are on the water carriage system of drainage.

Pail closets and Elsan closets	91
Privies	41
Cesspools	86

There is a regular service in operation for cleansing privies, cesspools and pail closets. They are being emptied weekly when and where possible.

### **Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.**

Owing to colliery subsidence, the sewage from the Carr Vale area is unable to reach the sewage works, and flows direct into the river Doe Lea. As an emergency measure the Surveyor is chlorinating the sewage until such time as it can be pumped to another of the Council's works.

### **Urgent Sanitary Requirements.**

1. The abatement of overcrowding by the provision of more houses.
2. The closing and demolition of unfit houses.

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## **Housing.**

The greatest Public Health need of the Bolsover Urban District is for more houses to abate existing overcrowding and to replace unfit houses. It is also extremely difficult to get necessary repairs carried out.

In 1942, I inspected 82 unfit houses which I suggested should be represented either in Clearance Areas or as Individually unfit. It will be noted in the Sanitary Inspector's report that he now has 250 unfit houses.

In my view overcrowding is the first evil to overcome, and until accommodation is much more plentiful it would be a mistake to demolish houses unless they are very bad indeed.

The Council intend to erect 50 permanent houses the first year after the European War ends, and 50 the second year. They also are putting up 25 temporary bungalows.

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## **Inspection and Supervision of Food.**

### **Milk, Meat and Other Foods.**

Full details of these will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

# Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1944.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases notified												Total Cases removed to Hospital.	Total Deaths	
	At Ages—years														
	At all Ages	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65			65 & upw'ds
Small-pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	2	1	..	1	3	..
Erysipelas	..	..	..	2	1	2	12	7	1	..	..	..	..	24	..
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Malaria	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Encephalitis Lethargica	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	7	3	3	..	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other forms of Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	4	1	1	..	..
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dysentery	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	..	3	8	10	6	11	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	..	52	2	2	9	11	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	112	3	8	13	8	13	28	11	3	10	9	4	2	28	..

## **Prevalence and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.**

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### **Diphtheria.**

3 cases of this disease occurred and all were removed to hospital. Two of the patients were immunised and had only slight sore throats, but the third, who was not immunised, was seriously ill. There were no deaths.

It is interesting to note that diphtheria has been the leading epidemic disease of the war on the European continent. It has been especially prevalent in Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and Finland; it was one of the most important causes of fatal illness in the German Army. The contrast with England, where the disease has been actually reduced is most striking.

By the end of the year 70% of toddlers and 77% of school children had been immunised, a total of 73% of all children in the area. This compares favourably with 54% of toddlers and 75% of school children in 1943.

### **Scarlet Fever.**

25 cases were reported compared with 29 in 1943, and all but one were removed to hospital. The disease was mild in type and there were no deaths.

### **Cerebral Spinal Meningitis.**

One case was notified, it was sent to Sheffield Royal Infirmary, and from there transferred to Lodge Moor.

### Tuberculosis.

The following table gives particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and of all deaths from the disease during the year.

Age Periods in years.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
1 .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 .. ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 .. ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 .. ..	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 .. ..	3	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
45 .. ..	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	9	7	—	—	2	—	1	—

The phthisis death-rate is 0.20 per 1,000 of the population.

As you will see from the following table, the number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis have increased.

Year.	Cases notified.
1939 .....	4
1940 .....	1
1941 .....	6
1942 .....	7
1943 .....	6
1944 .....	16

The rise in the number of cases is no doubt due to several causes, the chief of which are :—

- (1) Overcrowding.
- (2) The blackout which by diminishing ventilation increases cross infection.
- (3) Owing to shortage of labour, persons of poor physique and probably suffering from early tuberculosis, have been taken into industry and are thus multiplying the foci of infection.
- (4) The general resistance of workers in all callings is likely to be lowered by an inadequate amount of rest and recreation resulting from long hours of work in order to meet the needs of war.

It will be noted that there have only been 2 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis during the year.

# ANNUAL REPORT

## OF THE

### SANITARY INSPECTOR and CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT

#### For the Year Ending 31st December, 1944.

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH  
COMMITTEE.

SIR, MRS. THOMAS, AND GENTLEMEN,

It is my privilege to present my Annual Report of the year 1944 for your consideration. The details are given under the various headings relating to all matters connected with the Public Health and Cleansing Services of the Urban area. The activities of the Department have been carried out with the same progressive spirit as in the previous year, and several enterprising schemes have been given consideration in Committee, and carried through to a successful issue.

The details are as follows :—

#### **Inspection of District.**

During the year 4,865 visits were made re complaints received and in the general inspection of the district.

#### **Nuisances.**

539 nuisances were reported to the Public Health Committee. The following table gives particulars of such nuisances respecting which Preliminary Notices were issued or owners interviewed.

Defective Roofs.. .. .	43
„ Ceiling Plaster .....	17
„ Wall Plaster .....	16
„ Floors .....	10
„ Fire Ranges .....	27
„ Washing Coppers .....	3
„ Drains .....	26
„ Slopstones, Sinks, etc. ....	11

Defective Sink Waste Pipes .....	9
"    W.C. Pedestals .....	13
"    W.C. Cisterns .....	13
"    W.C. Floors .....	1
"    W.C. Roofs .....	6
"    W.C. Doors .....	1
"    W.C. Seats .....	6
"    Pail Closet Pans .....	1
"    Doors .....	5
"    Window Frames .....	10
"    Window Cords .....	14
"    Cylinders .....	1
"    Ash Bins .....	242
"    Eaves Gutters .....	11
"    Skirting Boards .....	2
"    Roof Skylights .....	2
"    Rain Water Pipes .....	5
"    Chimney Flues .....	10
"    Chimney Stacks .....	1
"    Chimney Pots .....	2
"    Chimney Flashings .....	1
"    Yard Surfaces .....	4
"    Ashpits .....	1
Damp Walls .....	24
Burst Pipes .....	13
Nuisance from keeping Animals .....	6
Alleged Dirty Houses .....	4
Dirty W.C. Accommodation .....	2
Accumulations .....	5
Insufficient W.C. Accommodation .....	1
Verminous Premises .....	8
Offensive Smells .....	1
Permanent Ventilation Required .....	2
Flooding Cellars..... .....	1
Obstructed Drains .....	96
Miscellaneous .....	17
Defective Manholes, Lids and Frames .....	18
"    Side Boilers .....	3
"    Waste Water Gullies .....	8
"    Brickwork to Manholes .....	3
"    Staircase Treads .....	2
Total .....	<hr/> 728 <hr/>

**Notices.**

361 Preliminary or Informal letters and notices were served upon owners or occupiers to abate the above mentioned nuisances found in connection with dwelling houses, etc.

It was found necessary to issue 39 Statutory Notices during the year to secure abatement of nuisances.

It was found necessary to institute legal proceedings on one occasion during the year to secure abatement of a nuisance. A Court Order was made, a fine imposed, and the nuisance was abated.

**Factories Act.**

46 Visits of inspection have been paid to factories in the District which were found to be in a satisfactory condition generally.

2 Contraventions were observed which were remedied by request.

No notifications were received during the year from H.M. Inspector of Factories.

**Workplaces.**

3 visits of inspection were paid to workplaces in the district during the year. No contraventions were observed.

**Bakehouses.**

Number on Register, December, 1944	.....	2
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These premises have been regularly inspected. 4 Contraventions were observed and three were remedied.

**Fried Fish Shops.**

There were 8 Fried Fish Shops on the register at the end of the year. 32 visits of inspection have been made to these premises.

Defects found to exist	.....	3
Defects remedied, December, 1944	.....	4

**Food Preparing Premises.**

There were 12 Food Preparing Premises being used as such during the year. 26 visits of inspection have been made to these premises. Several defects which existed have been remedied and alterations to some of these premises is in hand.

### Butchers Shops.

56 visits of inspection have been paid to Butchers shops within the district. There were 12 on the register at the end of the year.

### Meat Regulations.

46 visits of inspection were paid to Market.Stalls. There were no contraventions of the Regulations during the year.

### Unsound Food.

The following amount of diseased or unsound food was condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

Meat (22 tins)	.....	40 lbs.
Meat	.....	3 cwts.
Fruit	.....	6 lbs.
Preserves	.....	92½ lbs.
Treacle	.....	4 lbs.
Milk (51 tins).		
Meat and Vegetables (24 tins).		
Fish (17 tins).		
Egg Powder (1 packet).		
Pickles (1 bottle).		
Sausage	.....	174 lbs.
Soups (23 tins).		
Fish Cakes (97).		
Pork Bones	.....	320 lbs.

Total Weight	.....	8 cwts. 2 qrs. 20½ lbs.
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All the above were surrendered at the time of inspection prior to being exposed for sale.

### Slaughterhouses and Knackers Yard.

There are six licensed slaughterhouses within the Urban District, and in 4 cases the licenses were renewed. None of these are in use at the present time.

There is one Knackers Yard on the register. 49 Visits of inspection have been paid to these premises during the year. Business was found to be carried out in as satisfactory a manner as the nature permits, and records were kept up-to-date as required.

## Meat Inspection.

Of the pigs killed in the district for private consumption, requests for inspection were only made in 4 cases. At the time the Licence for Slaughter is granted at the Local Food Office a form, to be returned should the recipient require his pig examining, is enclosed requesting the Sanitary Inspector to call for this purpose. On considering the small number of requests received and pigs examined (4) and the amount condemned as being affected with Tuberculosis, some idea may be formed of the amount of Tuberculous Meat being consumed by these private pig keepers. Roughly, I should imagine, there is little more than 2% of private pig keepers who, on slaughtering, request that the carcase be examined. This is serious enough where the meat is for the private consumer, but recently the Ministry of Food have declared their intention to purchase half a pig from any private pig keeper, and I presume the part purchased would be for sale to the public without having been inspected.

Pigs being kept privately and slaughtered for private consumption have reached alarming rates in Urban and Rural areas, and some centralised method of slaughtering should be adopted with compulsory inspection and condemnation of affected parts. Tuberculous pork is probably being eaten on a large scale and the Government policy of encouraging the backyard pig keeper to kill his pig anywhere, leaving the matter of meat inspection obligatory, is creating a grave menace to Public Health.

4 Pigs were examined.

Condemned.	1 head and neck, Tuberculosis, 90 lbs.
	1 head                      Tuberculosis, 15 lbs.

The affected parts were voluntarily surrendered and suitably disposed of.

## Dairies and Cowsheds.

19 visits of inspection were made to dairies within the Urban District.

191 visits of inspection were made to farms and cowsheds within the district.

Total number of Accredited Producers in the District is 5 out of a possible 21.

### Milk Samples.

288 samples of milk were taken during the year. 70 samples were submitted to the Methylene Blue and B. Coli tests.

No. of Samples	Test Methylene Blue		Test for B. Coli.	
	Good	Bad	Good	Bad
70	57 or 81%	13 or 19%	63 or 90%	7 or 10%

188 samples of milk were submitted to the Resazurin Test.

No. of Samples.	Category A.	Category B.	Category C.
188	153 or 81%	24 or 13%	11 or 7%

NOTE.   Category A.   Satisfactory.  
           Category B.   Fairly Good.  
           Category C.   Failed to pass the Test.

18 Samples of milk were submitted to the Bacteriologist for Biological Test. One sample was positive, containing Tubercle Bacilli. The disease was traced back to the herd and the affected animal subsequently eliminated and slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order.

12 Samples of Pasteurised Milk were submitted to the Phosphatase Test. 11 reacted as having been adequately pasteurised. 1 failed to pass the test.

### Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

The registrations up to the 31st December were as follows :

Cowkeepers in the Urban District retailing milk within the district .....	14
Wholesale producers within the district .....	7
Shopkeepers within the district Retailing Milk .....	11
Purveyors of Milk within the District .....	38

### Infectious Diseases and Disinfection.

The following table gives the number of infectious diseases and the number of cases removed to the Isolation Hospital.

Infectious Disease.	Notified.	Removed to Hospital.
Scarlet Fever .....	25	24
Diphtheria .....	3	3
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis .....	1	1
Measles .....	2	—
Whooping Cough .....	52	—
Erysipelas .....	4	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .....	16	—
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis .....	—	—
Pneumonia .....	9	—
Total .....	112	28

38 rooms were disinfected by means of spraying with formalin or fumigating with formic aldehyde gas. 20 Books have been disinfected. Several beds and articles of clothing were Steam Disinfected at the Disinfecting Station, Council Yard. In some cases a charge was made.

48 Visits were made arranging Scabies Treatments and Verminous Head Treatments.

### Water Supply.

A general survey of all private supplies was carried out during the year. There are 11 wells serving 11 dwellings, and 2 springs serving six dwellings. Following complaints

received 29 samples of water were taken, 14 for bacteriological examination and 15 for chemical analysis. In all cases the samples were unsatisfactory for drinking purposes.

As Town's Mains are available in nearly all cases, water supply will be installed and the private supplies closed. The difficulty will be to find a plumber to carry out the necessary works, none being available in this area at the present time, and the Chesterfield and Bolsover Water Board, when approached, state that they are definitely not in a position to do this work at present.

5 Wells were closed for drinking purposes. Town's Mains were laid on to 8 dwellings during the year.

9 samples of swimming bath water were taken during the year from the Public Baths, New Station Road. Six were found to be satisfactory, 3 unsatisfactory.

### **Petroleum (Consolidated) Act.**

13 visits of inspection were paid to premises where Petroleum Spirit is stored. All licences were renewed during the year. No contraventions were observed.

### **Schools.**

50 visits of inspection were carried out during the year for various purposes, i.e., Immunisation, Health and Education Propaganda, Verminous Heads, Scabies, Sanitary Accommodation, etc.

5 defects were found to exist.

5 defects were remedied.

### **Public Buildings, Inns, etc.**

24 visits of inspection were paid to the above premises re W.C. accommodation. In several cases work is in hand to provide additional W.C. accommodation or to alter existing arrangements.

**Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.****Rats and Mice Infestation Order, 1943.**

During the year the Council appointed a part time Rat Catcher who is employed at a maximum of 30 hours weekly. 29 visits of inspection were made to premises infested with rats.

522 rats were caught during the year.

**Shops Acts.**

In connection with the above there were no complaints received during visits. 25 visits were paid to various premises where mixed staffs were employed.

**Moveable Dwellings.**

Routine inspections were carried out of the caravans renting Kitchen Croft for the winter. The dwellings were kept in a satisfactory manner, and no nuisances were found. New W.C. accommodation is required and will be provided in the near future.

**Vermin.**

22 houses were found to be infested with vermin, i.e., bugs, fleas, etc., and advice was given to owners and occupiers concerned. 44 rooms were sprayed with insecticides and great improvements were reported in all cases.

**Conversions.**

There has been one conversion during the year. 1 Pail Closet has been replaced by a Fresh Water Closet connecting to a Cesspool.

A survey has been carried out regarding existing privy middens, and it is hoped to substitute these with Pail Closets and Ash Bins which ensure a weekly collection and are far more hygienic. Where a sewer is available conversions will be carried out and water closets installed.

**Housing.**

During the year no houses were erected and no premises converted into dwellings.

The defects under the Housing Acts are as follows :—

Defective Roofs	9
„ W.C. Cisterns	2
„ W.C. Pedestals	2
„ W.C. Seats	2
„ W.C. Floor	2
„ Yard Surfaces	2
„ Ceiling Plaster	1
„ Wall Plaster	1
„ Floors	1
„ Cylinders	1
„ Slopstones	1
„ Ranges	5
„ Window Frames	11
„ Window Cords	8
„ Doors	2
„ Eaves Gutters	1
„ Rain Water Pipes	1
„ Chimney Flues	4
„ Skirting Boards	1
Alleged Overcrowding	6
Damp Walls	2
Defective Washing Copper	1
„ Staircase Treads	1
Total	67

One undertaking was accepted from an owner not to let the property concerned for human habitation in the future.

It was found necessary to issue one Statutory Notice during the year under the Housing Acts. The works were completed and no further action taken.

One Demolition Order was made during the year. An appeal was made to the County Court, and it was agreed by both parties to a deferred hearing of six months as the owner had promised to carry out all works to the Council's satisfaction within 6 months. The schedule of agreed works and conditions were drafted into a Court Order to save further lengthy procedure on the Council's behalf should the works not be carried out within the time specified.

The Overcrowding Survey, not yet fully completed due to pressure of work in other branches, is progressing satisfactorily

and nearly complete. During the year 544 visits have been made to properties, and 400 houses have been measured up.

Housing conditions generally have deteriorated during war-time, and quite a large percentage are in need of extensive repairs. A preliminary survey shows about 250 houses to be dealt with as Clearance Areas. Individual Unfits and quite a lot of Underground Rooms will come under closing orders with subsequent alteration to accommodation. The Preliminary Surveys are in hand and areas are to be decided in the near future so that no time may be lost when instructions are received from the Ministry of Health to proceed with Housing.

Overcrowding exists in parts of the District due chiefly to two or more families sharing one house, but the situation will be eased when building operations commence.

The Council have applied for 50 Temporary Houses and have been allocated 25 up to the present. They hope to build 50 permanent houses in the first year after hostilities cease, and 50 in the second year, making a total of 125 additional houses in the area.

#### **Civil Defence. Food Decontamination.**

The personnel stands at full strength ready to operate in case of emergency.

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### **Public Cleansing Service.**

This is probably the most costly item in the Council's commitments, and every effort is made to keep the cost down to the minimum consistent with the maintenance of the high standard of efficiency in collection and disposal which our ratepayers now accept as a matter of course.

#### **Refuse Collection.**

During the year a weekly collection of refuse and salvage has been maintained, serving all houses and business premises in the area.

#### **Staff.**

The outdoor staff consists of the following :—

1 Motor Driver.

4 Bin Men.

2 Men, Cesspools and Pails (Part-time).

Disposal—

1 Man (Part-time).

**Salvage—**

- 2 Men, Screeners.
- 1 Man, Paper Bailer (Part-time).

**Occasional Labour—**

- 1 Motor Driver.
- 1 Loader.

**Motors—**

- 1 Karrier Refuse Vehicle.
- 1 Horse and Water Cart.
- 1 Bedford Lorry (Part-time).

**Refuse Disposal.**

All refuse collected by the Council is disposed of by controlled tipping at :—

New Byron Brickworks,  
Lime Kiln Fields,  
Shuttlewood,  
Stanfree.

**Utilization of Refuse.**

One large Book and Salvage Drive was organised during the year. Circulars appealing to house-holders for increased efforts in the salvage of materials were distributed by the Salvage Stewards during a house to house canvas. Films were shown and a concert held in various wards, and Public Appeals were made by Councillors and Council officials. A staff of over 65 Salvage Stewards, Youth Organisations, Schools and the W.V.S., etc., worked together to attain the high figures shown in books and salvage collected.

**Collection of Kitchen Waste.**

A bi-weekly collection of Kitchen Waste is made, but the public response is far from satisfactory due to the number of private pig and poultry keepers in the district. Swill is sold direct to a local farmer and there is a ready demand for this material.

**Screened Ashes.**

Nearly all refuse from two tips is being screened and ashes sold to local gardeners, centrally heated establishments, etc. Owing to labour shortages the demand exceeds output, but a machanical screen is shortly to be installed to increase production.

**Details of Work done.**

1944	No. of Loads.	Approx. Weight Domestic Refuse Tons	Ashpits Emptied	Pails Emptied	Cesspools Emptied.
January .....	203	415	33	290	101
February ...	108	260	19	235	91
March ....	202	413	33	292	102
April .....	131	333	23	252	101
May .....	164	428	18	284	148
June .....	130	344	41	254	117
July .....	142	355	10	254	101
August .....	155	435	51	324	127
September .....	127	341	16	262	90
October .....	128	343	38	264	120
November .....	161	434	30	324	138
December ...	121	318	13	264	103
Totals ....	1772	4419	325	3299	1339

**Salvage.**

The following quantities of salvage materials were sold during the year. The values are as shown.

Materials.	Weight.				Value.		
	T.	C.	Q.	L.	£	s.	d.
Paper .....	52	3	1	0	319	15	7
Iron and Metals and Crushed Tins .....	12	1	0	0	22	16	6
Rubber .....	10	18	0	0	16	0	10
Kitchen Waste Food .....	37	13	0	14	47	1	5
Bones .....	4	14	1	21	22	8	2
Rags and Sacks .....	5	9	0	0	50	12	0
Cinders from Refuse .....	72	15	0	0	77	14	8
Copper, Lead and Brass .....	1	6	0	0	5	14	5
Jars .....						5	0
Totals .....	196	19	3	7	£562	8	7

Totals for year ending 31st March, 1943.

Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
201	2	1	15	744	9	11

# Summary of Work Done in the Sanitary Department.

Inspection for Nuisances and Miscellaneous Visits	4865
No. of Nuisances Found	539
„ Preliminary Notices Served	361
„ Statutory Notices Served	39
Visits to Factories	46
„ Workplaces	3
„ Butchers Shops	56
„ Market Stalls	46
„ Dairies	19
„ Farms and Cowsheds	191
„ Knacker Yard	49
„ Rat Infestation	29
„ Arrange Scabies and Verminous Head Treatments	48
„ Petroleum Premises	13
„ Fried Fish Shops	32
„ Food Preparing Premises	26
„ Schools	50
„ Public Buildings, Inns, etc.	24
Ascertaining Permitted No : s	544
Measuring Up (Houses)	400
Milk Samples taken	288
Water Samples taken	29
Rats caught	522
Pigs Inspected	4
Food Condemned	8 cwts. 2 qrs. 20½ lbs.
Library Books Disinfected	20
Rooms Disinfected	38
Verminous Houses	22
Conversions	1

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Thomas and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

JAMES HOLDEN SMELLIE.



